



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Virginia to Celebrate Adoption Awareness Month *-Events planned across the state-*

Richmond – Governor Mark R. Warner has proclaimed November as Adoption Awareness Month in the Commonwealth. In recognition of this observance, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), local departments of social services and organizations throughout the state will sponsor events to raise awareness of the adoption option during the month.

“Currently there are more than 1,600 children in foster care in Virginia who are waiting to be adopted,” said VDSS Commissioner Maurice A. Jones. “Events during the month of November will help provide useful information for potential adoptive parents, and improve the adoption process for our deserving children and their new families.”

There will be five regional "Adoption Saturday" events during the month of November. Adoption Saturday emphasizes the collaborative efforts between local departments of social services and the court system. These one-day events help to eliminate multiple court appearances by adopting families.

“We have some tremendous success stories about enriching the lives of children and families through the adoption process,” said Commissioner Jones. “I am very proud of the partnerships we have established and continue to grow in communities throughout the Commonwealth.”

The following Adoption Saturday events are scheduled in Virginia:

- Alexandria – Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.
- Campbell County – Campbell County Circuit Court, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.
- Hampton – Hotel Radisson Hampton, Nov. 20, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Richmond – Oliver Courts Building, Nov. 20, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Roanoke/Salem – Salem Civic Center, Nov. 20, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Virginia's adoption hotline is 1-800-DO-ADOPT. For more information on adoptions or other events planned in Virginia, please contact Sondra Draper at (804) 726-7524 or Brenda Kerr at (804) 726-7530 or visit <http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/adoption.html>.

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Attention Reporters: Interviews may be scheduled with families who are successfully providing loving homes to adopted children based on availability of families and assurance of confidentiality.